

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**  
**ABSTRACT**

EFS&T Department – Diversion of 0.23 ha of forest land in Compartment Nos.308, 309 & 312 of Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Rapur Range in Nellore Division, for laying underground Optical Fibre Cable(OFC) along the existing Right of Way, in favour of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Visakhapatnam – Final approval - Orders – Issued.

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**ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section.II) DEPARTMENT**

**G.O.MS.No. 57**

**Dated: 05-08-2025**

**Read the following:-**

- 1)GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi, issued guidelines in Lr.F.No.5-2/2017-FC, dt.28.03.2019.
- 2)From the PCCF&HoFF, A.P., Lr.Rc.No.EFS02-15026/2/2021/FCA-SEC/PCCF/FCA-3, dated.02.01.2023.
- 3)G.O.Ms.No.5, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dated.24.01.2023.
- 4)GoI, MoEF&CC(FC-Division), New Delhi, issued consolidated guidelines in letter dated 29.12.2023.
- 5)From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Ref.No.15026/2/2021-FCA-PCCF-FCA-3, dated 05.05.2025.

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**ORDER:**

In the letter 2<sup>nd</sup> read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a proposal under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the diversion of 0.23 ha of forest land in Compartment Nos.308, 309 & 312 of Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Rapur Range in Nellore Division, for laying underground Optical Fibre Cable(OFC) along the existing Right of Way, in favour of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Visakhapatnam, and requested to consider the proposal and issue orders under general approval category, as per the guidelines issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, in the letter 1<sup>st</sup> read above.

2. In the G.O.3<sup>rd</sup> read above, in-principle approval was issued under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the diversion of 0.23 ha of forest land in Compartment Nos.308, 309, and 312 of Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Rapur Range in Nellore Division, for laying underground Optical Fibre Cable(OFC) along the existing Right of Way, in favour of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Visakhapatnam, subject to the fulfilment of the relevant conditions stipulated therein.

3. In the letter 5<sup>th</sup> read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri, Guntur, has submitted the compliance report on the conditions stipulated in the G.O.3<sup>rd</sup> read above and has requested the grant of final approval under the powers delegated by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, in the letter 4<sup>th</sup> read above.

4. After careful consideration of the compliance report furnished by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri, Guntur, and in exercise of the powers delegated to the State Government under the guidelines issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi, in the letter 4<sup>th</sup> read above, the State Government hereby accord “Final approval” under Section 2 of the Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for the diversion of 0.23 ha of forest land in Compartment Nos.308, 309 & 312 of Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Rapur Range in Nellore Division, for laying underground Optical Fibre Cable(OFC) along the existing Right of Way, in favour of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Visakhapatnam, subject to the following conditions:-

## 1. General Conditions

| S.No. | Conditions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.1   | Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1.2   | At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.                                                                                |
| 1.3   | The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1.4   | No additional or new paths will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1.5   | The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed <b>0.23 ha.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1.6   | No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1.7   | The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1.8   | The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1.9   | The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1.10  | The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1.11  | No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1.12  | The concerned Divisional Forest Officer will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forest in the surrounding area.                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1.13  | The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and MoEF&CC, GoI, Sub-office of the Regional Office, Vijayawada by the end of March every year.                                                                                                       |
| 1.14  | The user agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.                                                                                         |
| 1.15  | Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.                                                                                                                                    |
| 1.16  | The conditions required to be adhered under the Forests Right Act, 2006 as per the rules/guidelines issued under Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be strictly complied with.                                                                                                                                      |
| 1.17  | Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019. |

## 2. Standard conditions

| S.No. | Conditions |
|-------|------------|
| 2.1   | N/A        |

## 3. Specific conditions

| S.No. | Conditions                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.1   | The User Agency shall provide CA-NFL area for compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest area diverted, if applicable, based on the final outcome in the W.P.No.1164/2023 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. An undertaking from the |

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|     | User Agency in this regard may be obtained.                                                                                                                            |
| 3.2 | The KML file of the forest area to be diverted shall be uploaded on the e-green watch portal with all requisite details and same shall be submitted along with GPS ID. |
| 3.3 | The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer.      |

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

**(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)**

G. ANANTHA RAMU  
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To  
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,  
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.

**Copy to:**

1. The Chief Executive Officer, National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Block No.3, CGO Complex, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. The Inspector General of Forests,  
ROHQ, MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.
3. The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),  
GoI, MoEF&CC, Sub-office at Vijayawada of  
Regional Office, Chennai, Green House Complex,  
Gopal Reddy Road, Vijayawada – 520 010.
4. M/s. Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited., Visakhapatnam.
5. SC/SF

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER